

THE WATERING PLACES.

SARATOGA—ITS MINERAL SPRINGS—ACCOMMODATIONS OF THE HOTELS.

From Our Special Correspondent.

SARATOGA, July 24, 1867.

The ladies and gentlemen who go down to the Congress Spring in flocks before breakfast have a very inadequate idea of the number, character, and history of the mineral springs to which Saratoga owes all its prosperity and popularity. They would be surprised, perhaps, at the statement that 80,000 dozens of bottles of the water of this spring alone were sold last year, and that the demand is constantly increasing. The Congress Spring is owned by a company which also owns the Columbian and Empire Springs. It represents 250 or 300 stockholders and has a capital of \$1,000,000. The work of bottling is carried on day and night, the year round, except during a portion of the summer season, when for certain hours of the day there is so much used that the supply is limited. For visitors the water is dipped out by boys from the tanks rising out of the ground under the pavilion at the entrance of Congress Spring Park. For bottling it is brought across the street through pipes by a pump worked by a small steam engine. Enterers a "drum" holding 200 gallons, and from this a tapering tube descends which fits into the neck of the bottles. The bottles are filled out at a time and immediately corked. About 4,500 may be filled in 2 hours by steady work. Thirty thousand dozens of bottles of the Empire water were sold last year, and about 6,000 dozens of those of the Columbian. The Star Spring sold about 1,000 dozens of bottles last year, and the Eagle, High Rock, Washington, and Seltzer are also beginning to sell considerably. A great deal is also put up in barrels to be sold on draught, but it has been found very difficult to preserve the water in the condition in which it is drawn from the spring. The water is sold in stores, where it is sold only when it is necessary to change it, and with the carbonic acid gas, so that the water does not lose its transportation. The high price of mineral waters away from Saratoga is owing chiefly to the cost of the bottles and of transportation. The Congress and Empire Spring Company being unable to procure all the bottles which they needed, have had to buy them from manufacturers of glass at a village near here which they have called Congressville, and will thus in future be able to supply the greater demand. If the water could be confined in large quantities so as to retain its gaseous and mineral qualities after transportation it could be sent away by hundreds of thousands, the flow from some of the springs being estimated at between one and two million gallons per minute. The flow of the Congress water, however, is only two quarts per minute, and was very little of it is new wasted.

The Congress Spring was discovered in 1792, 25 years after Sir William Johnson visited the High Rock Spring. The discoverers were three gentlemen who were hunting in the village of one of his old men, Taylor Gilman, and who were then a member of Congress, which fact suggested the name of the spring. The low ground about the spring was then a swamp, and the mineral water issued in a small stream from an aperture in the side of the rock. It turned the stream from its course and dug down about eight feet, when the mineral water rose from several places in the marsh. He paved a square of stones, placed a basin over several little fountains, and thus secured the spring around it, and thus secured the spring. It was first bottled as an article of merchandise in 1823, and is now sent to all portions of the world.

Since then springs have been developed all along the valley, commencing at the Washington Spring on the south, in the group of hills called Catskill, 400 feet above Congress Spring. This was tubed by Leon Partain, but it was not until 1858 that the tube was extended down to the solid rock. A shaft 11 feet square was first sunk 30 feet deep to the rock. The stream was then found to come from a lateral direction, and a tunnel was excavated 30 feet long. At this point the earth gave way, and the water and gas flowed to the surface. The gas was then seen to be capable of escape, leaving their tools behind them. In 15 minutes as much as 12,000 gallons of water, and twice the quantity of carbonic acid gas, filled the excavation. A rotary pump, worked by a steam engine, was incapable of removing the water, and a second shaft was sunk near the end of the tunnel. At the depth of 100 feet the water also gave way, and then it had to be abandoned. Still another shaft was then sunk, 20 feet in diameter, in a south-easterly direction from the others, and was held by a strong coffer-dam. When the rock was reached, two formations were found issuing from a fissure, and one of these burst, the water soon rose to the surface.

The Columbian Spring is in a ravine south-west of Saratoga. In the Congress Park, it contains much more iron than the Congress Spring, and is drunk during the day. Persons drinking it before breakfast are apt to have the headache; while the Congress should only be drunk upon an empty stomach.

About thirty rods to the north-east of the Congress, and in the rear of Congress Hall, is the Hamilton Spring. It is owned by Mrs. White, and is not bottled. Twenty rods north of the Hamilton is the Putnam Spring, which is approached through an alleyway from Broadway. It is a fine water, and has a bathing establishment connected with it.

In Willowbank, back of the site of the old Columbia Hotel, which was burned, following the course of the valley, the Flat Rock Spring was situated next, but it is now lost, having mostly disappeared when the Pavilion was taken. The next spring to the north is the Seltzer, which was formerly called the barrel Spring, for the reason that a barrel was first used to confine the water, which flowed over the ground. In 1865 the spring was taken, and after digging through four feet of sand, a solid mass of calcareous stone was found four feet in thickness, formed in the same manner as the High Rock by the deposits of the water.

An analysis showed it to be composed principally of carbonate of lime, carbonate of magnesia, oxide of iron, and silica. In the process of excavation a birch tree was also found, which had grown in the sand deposit. This comes from the others in rising through a thin tube three feet in height, over the rim of which it flows. The bubbles can be seen rising up through the tube, while at intervals of about a minute there is an exhalation of gas, causing much larger bubbles and a greater agitation of the water. This spring is named the Seltzer on account of the resemblance of the water to the Seltzer of Germany. High Rock Spring, its water, being similar to that of the Eureka, is in the conical rock four feet high, and greatest curiosities here—less than a hundred feet to the north.

The Eureka Spring, formerly called the President and the Iodine, is a few rods north of the High Rock. Next to the North is the Empire Spring. The Saratoga Spring is on the road leading to the Ten Springs. The Excelsior Rock Spring, situated nearly two miles west of Saratoga, is a fine water, and a mineral spring, none of which are used except this. The tubing is 50 feet deep to the Trenton lime rock through which it flows through several crevices. The Eureka Spring is also still further from the town, and is surrounded by beautiful scenery. In South Argyle, Washington County, to the east there is a mineral fountain called Reed's Spring, the water of which, however, is not equal to that of the Saratoga. The Saratoga Spring is one of the Congress Spring's Paradise Spring, formerly called Quaker Spring, which has been bottled in small quantities. About two miles south-west of the hotel is a spring near the railroad track, at the western side of the embankment. It is only used by the people in the vicinity.

Twenty-five years ago Ballston surpassed Saratoga as a place of fashionable resort. But the water in its principal spring was too hard to tube it, and has never been brought to the surface again. Some years ago a mineral spring was discovered by bubbles rising in the middle of Blue Pond. It was tubed and separated from the surrounding water, and is now approached to the center of the pond over a plank.

The mineral waters, all known, contain large quantities of chloride of sodium, carbonate of soda, carbonate of lime, bicarbonate of lime, and carbonate of iron, besides silica, a trace of mica, alumina, and hydroxylate of potash. These solid contents passing over the ground are precipitated, and form a rock, as is most wonderfully shown in the High Rock. The waters contain great quantities of carbonic acid gas, giving them the power of dissolving minerals, forcing them up, and dissolving the top of the spring, with bubbles by its continual escape. The water may be used in making bread instead of yeast. The gas may be procured by preparing a bladder, securing to its mouth a stop-cock, fitting to this the small aperture of a large glass funnel, inverting the funnel over the spring, emptying the bladder of air, and allowing it to fill with gas. Bubbles some of which get into the bladder, and some will go on in it, and a mouse will die in it in less than a minute. The water is quite cold, and remains at the same temperature Winter and Summer. It becomes quite pleasant to the taste after a short time, and the inhabitants here drink it to quench thirst.

The hotels here are comfortably full, but will not be crowded until August. The Union will accommodate about 4,000, the Claridon about 500, the American, which has been enlarged and refurnished, 350. Beside these the Mansion House will accommodate 250, the Temple Grove formerly Dr. Beecher's Institute for Young Ladies, 250, the Continental, 200, the Columbian, 200, the Everett, 100, the Academy, 100, the Eagle, 100, Water Cure, 100, the Strong's Water Cure, 100, Medical Institute, 100, the Strong's Water Cure, 100, the Empire, 75, the Commercial, 75, the New York, 50, the Broadway, 50, the West, 75, the Pleasant, 30, and Mrs. Week's, Mrs. Baldwin's, and many other first-class boarding houses. In active times hardly every house in the town has its rooms filled with lodgers.

THE MONEY MARKET.

SALES AT THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT.	
FIRST CALL, 101 O'CLOCK A.M.	101
U.S. 5s.—"Corp. B & Co." 10-20-64 Con.	100
3,000, 101 Ind. 10s.—"Corp. B & Co." 10-20-64 Con.	100
U.S. 6s.—"Corp. B & Co." 10-20-64 Con.	100
1,000, 110 Ind. U.S. 6s & 20-Cent Cons. 10s.—"Corp. B & Co." 10-20-64 Con.	100
5,000, 121 O'C.P. 10s.—"Corp. B & Co." 10-20-64 Con.	100

Merchants' Union, \$10 paid up. 100

2,000, 102

1,000, 103

Tennessee 2s—Merchants' Un. Ex. Michigan Central

1,000, 100, 25 cent paid 250

Tennessee 2s & 6s—Michigan Central

1,000, 100, 25 cent paid 200

6,000, 100, 25 cent paid 200